

Message

From: Shoren Brown, Bristol Bay United [shoren@bristolbayunited.com]
Sent: 6/26/2014 1:58:55 PM
To: Hough, Palmer [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=51cd0b0d81ac416fa265944d6e6575ce-PHough]
Subject: Bristol Bay in the News: June 26, 2014



Bristol Bay in the News: June 26, 2014

Recently, Bristol Bay United released a poll showing that Alaskans remain overwhelmingly opposed to the Pebble Mine. 62% of Alaska voters are opposed to the mine, with 47% of voters "strongly opposed." A full seven in 10 voters believe the Pebble Mine will harm Alaska's fishing industry, and 55% want EPA action to stop the Pebble Mine. 67% of the same respondents support drilling in ANWR.

These numbers are impressive, and indeed show opposition to the Pebble Mine has remained strong – and even grown – in the months following the EPA's initiation of the 404(c) process under the Clean Water Act to protect Bristol Bay. As Trout Unlimited's Tim Bristol said, "As Pebble continues to fight this losing battle, the company's tired and hollow arguments are falling on deaf ears in Alaska."

While Alaskans continue to make clear their opposition to the Pebble Mine, DC politicians continue to take aim at the very provisions that are providing the people of Bristol Bay some hope that the threat of the Pebble Mine will soon be put to rest. Reps. Bob Gibbs and Nick Rahall have introduced the H.R. 4854, the so-called Regulatory Certainty Act. If enacted, this legislation would prevent the EPA from finishing the job it started in Bristol Bay and prevent it from protecting our waters whenever they are threatened by "unacceptable adverse impacts."

As the United Tribes of Bristol Bay's Robert Heyano said, "Any change to the Clean Water Act would delay the EPA's ability to protect Bristol Bay and would have major consequences for our people and region."

You can read these stories in this week's Bristol Bay in the News.

Shoren Brown

Executive Director, Bristol Bay United

ALASKANS OVERWHELMINGLY OPPOSED TO THE PEBBLE MINE

Poll Finds 62% of Alaskans Oppose Development of the Pebble Mine

Bristol Bay United Press Release

June 12, 2014

ANCHORAGE, AK – A recent survey conducted by the Benenson Strategy Group on behalf of Bristol Bay United finds that opposition to the Pebble Mine remains strong, with 62% of likely Alaskan voters opposing the mine and only 33% supporting it. The intensity gap is also stark; 47% are “strongly opposed” to the mine, while only 16% “strongly support” Pebble. Support crosses party lines, with 88% of Democrats, 63% of Independents, and 42% of Republicans opposing the mine. Additionally, 55% support EPA action to deny Pebble Mine the federal permit necessary to move forward.

“It was Alaskans who asked the EPA to take a close look at the Pebble Mine, and it’s Alaskans who are still overwhelmingly opposed to the Pebble Mine and strongly supportive of EPA action,” said Trout Unlimited’s Alaska Program Director Tim Bristol. “As Pebble continues to fight this losing battle, the company’s tired and hollow arguments are falling on deaf ears in Alaska.”... [click here to read more.](#)

Alaskans Oppose Pebble Mine Nearly 2-to-1

Politico Morning Energy

June 13, 2014

Sixty-two percent of likely Alaskan voters oppose the proposed Pebble Mine, while 33 percent support it, according to a new poll conducted by the Benenson Strategy Group for Bristol Bay United, a group that opposes the mine. And lest you think the poll caught a string of particularly environmental Alaskans, two-thirds of respondents support drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. The poll was conducted from May 13 to May 15, several months after EPA began reviewing the issue, and has a margin of error +/-4 percent. Poll memo: <http://bit.ly/SDT0J7>

New Poll Finds 62% Alaskan Voters Oppose Development of Pebble Mine

By Luke Brummer

KDLG

June 12, 2014

A recent survey finds that polling numbers remain strong in opposition to the proposed pebble mine in Alaska. KDLG’s Luke Brummer has the story... [click here to listen.](#)

ALASKANS RESPOND TO H.R. 4854

United Tribes of Bristol Bay Strongly Opposes Efforts to Gut the Clean Water Act

Proposal would halt EPA’s efforts to protect Bristol Bay from the Pebble Mine

United Tribes of Bristol Bay press release

June 13, 2014

Dillingham, AK – The United Tribes of Bristol Bay made the following statement after today’s proposal by Rep. Bob Gibbs (R-OH) and Nick Rahall (D-WV) to dramatically alter the Clean Water Act and prevent EPA from protecting Bristol Bay waters until after a permit has been filed.

President of UTBB, Robert Heyano, made the following statement concerning the introduced legislation:

“The United Tribes of Bristol Bay and hundreds Bristol Bay subsistence users who requested the EPA take action to protect our fisheries are angered by this direct push to undermine our efforts to protect our salmon and way of life. Bristol Bay’s salmon uphold a thriving sustainable industry and have sustained our people for generations. Any change to the Clean Water Act would delay the EPA’s ability to protect Bristol Bay and would have major consequences for our people and region. The United Tribes of Bristol Bay, along with thousands of Alaskans, stand with the EPA in its ability to protect our fisheries and strongly oppose the move that threatens the survival of Bristol Bay.”

United Tribes of Bristol Bay is a tribal consortia working to protect their traditional way of life & the Bristol Bay watershed from large-scale metallic sulfide mining.

House Bill Seeks to Alter Clean Water Act, Threatens Bristol Bay Salmon and Jobs

Legislation introduced by Reps. Bob Gibbs (R-Ohio) and Nick Rahall (D-W.Va.) would limit Clean Water Act

and prevent the EPA from protecting Bristol Bay salmon and jobs

Trout Unlimited press release

June 12, 2014

ANCHORAGE, AK –Alaska anglers are exasperated by the Regulatory Certainty Act of 2014, sponsored by two representatives from the Lower 48, which would limit EPA's authority to protect Bristol Bay from the proposed Pebble Mine. The legislation, introduced by Reps. Bob Gibbs (R-Ohio) and Nick Rahall (D-W.Va.), is the second of recently introduced assaults on the Clean Water Act as it pertains to the EPA's efforts to protect Bristol Bay. This latest bill would restrict the ability of the EPA to protect rivers and wetlands whenever they are threatened with unacceptable adverse effects, as is the case with the Pebble deposit.

"Thousands of Alaskans came together to request EPA action to protect Bristol Bay because we were not getting any help from the State of Alaska. This bill helps pave the way for Pebble by removing the very part of the Clean Water Act that the people of Alaska have asked be used to protect Bristol Bay," said Tim Bristol, Director of Trout Unlimited's Alaska Program.

Co-Sponsor, Rep. Bob Gibbs, said himself in a statement last Thursday concerning the measure, "For decades the Clean Water Act has been successful in protecting our waters and ensuring that businesses can continue to responsibly invest and create jobs." The Alaska sport fishing community agrees, and urges the authors to leave the critical law alone for the protection of Bristol Bay. This bill comes on the heels of a similar bill in the Senate, Senate Bill 2156, which was co-sponsored by Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska).

"We have a chance to use the Clean Water Act to protect Bristol Bay's renewable salmon industry right now but these representatives are trying to remove this opportunity," said Brian Kraft who owns several sport fishing lodges, three in Bristol Bay and one on Kodiak Island. "Bristol Bay residents and businesses have already waited a decade for Pebble to apply for permits and if these Congressmen get their way, we could be waiting a lot longer with no way to proactively protect our businesses and way of life."

"This bill, as well as Senate Bill 2156, is a short-sighted attempt by non-Alaskans to deny local people and businesses that depend on salmon the ability to protect Bristol Bay from the risky development of the Pebble Mine," said Bristol.

Trout Unlimited's Alaska Program has 900 members in Alaska, many of whom fish or operate lodges in Bristol Bay. Together, these individuals work with a national network of sportsmen to conserve, protect and restore wild salmon and trout populations in Bristol Bay and throughout the United States.

'Regulatory Certainty Act' Would Eliminate Certainty for Bristol Bay's Salmon Industry

Bristol Bay Regional Seafood Development Association press release

June 13, 2014

Yesterday, Rep. Bob Gibbs (R-OH) and Nick Rahall (D-WV) introduced H.R. 4854, The Regulatory Certainty Act of 2014, which seeks to prevent the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) from exercising its 404(c) authority under the Clean Water Act (CWA) to proactively protect our watershed and provide certainty for Alaska's most valuable salmon fishery.

Today, the Bristol Bay Regional Seafood Development Association released the following statement from its executive director, Sue Aspelund.

"The Clean Water Act is intended to serve as the foundation for protecting our nation's waters and water-based resources, including salmon, and has done so for over 40 years.

"It is the same legislation that currently provides a pathway for securing economic certainty for nearly 2,000 small businesses based in Bristol Bay. These businesses have operated under the threat of the Pebble Mine for nearly a decade now. The uncertainty for our individual fishing businesses, as well as Bristol Bay's hard-earned reputation in the global salmon marketplace, can only be put to rest through CWA protections.

"We are extremely disappointed that two Lower-48 congressmen are taking aim at the very provision in the CWA that provides EPA's longstanding legal authority to protect Bristol Bay's salmon-rearing headwaters. Just as the EPA has begun its lawful process, these lawmakers seek to pull the rug out from under it, putting 14,000 jobs and a \$1.5 billion fishing economy at risk.

Bristol Bay's salmon resource has sustained the people of this region for hundreds of generations.

Representatives Gibbs and Rahall put that priceless legacy at risk. We respectfully invite them to visit us

here in Bristol Bay so they can better understand the action we are seeking through the CWA, and the culture, history, and industry it aims to protect.

"Bristol Bay is an economic powerhouse and a national treasure. It supports the nation's largest and most valuable salmon runs. Once again, the fishermen of Bristol Bay – hailing from 34 states and supporting a \$1.5 billion salmon-based economy – call on every member of Congress to support EPA's authority under Section 404(c) and protect Bristol Bay."

WATER ISSUES - Fishermen critical of legislation to alter Clean Water Act

By Margaret Bauman

The Cordova Times

June 13, 2014

Legislation before Congress to limit the Environmental Protection Agency's veto authority over Clean Water Act permits is drawing criticism from commercial, sport and subsistence fishermen concerned over its impact on Bristol Bay.

In a statement issued June 13 on behalf of driftnet fishermen in Bristol Bay, the Bristol Bay Regional Seafood Development Association again urged Congress to support EPA's authority under Section 404 (c) to protect the environment of Bristol Bay, which supports a \$1.5 billion salmon-based economy... [click here to read more.](#)

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